

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A longitudinal granular oxide recording medium, comprising:

(a) at least one non-magnetic layer with body-centered cubic atomic structure with a $\langle 200 \rangle$ preferred growth orientation,

(b) at least one interlayer with hexagonal close packed atomic structure and with a $\langle 11-20 \rangle$ preferred growth orientation,

(c) at least one magnetic oxide-containing granular magnetic layer with hexagonal close packed atomic structure and with a $\langle 11-20 \rangle$ preferred growth orientation,

wherein the interlayer comprises at least two layers: a first interlayer, IL₁, located above first layer (a) and comprising a Co-X alloy, wherein X is selected from the group consisting of Cr, Pt, Ta, B, W, Mo, Ru, Si, Cu, Ag, Ge, Nb, Fe, Ni, Au and combinations thereof, and a second interlayer, IL₂, comprising a Ru-Y alloy, wherein Y is selected from the group consisting of Rh, Ir, Cr, Re, Co, V, W, Ta, Zr, Hf, Ti, Mo, Au and combinations thereof.

13- 14 (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) The longitudinal granular oxide recording medium of claim [[14]] 12, wherein the first interlayer comprises at least 50 at. % of Co and the second interlayer comprises at least 50 at. % of Ru.

16. (Original) The longitudinal granular oxide recording medium of claim 12, wherein the magnetic oxide-containing granular magnetic layer comprises magnetic crystal grains that are substantially isolated by an inter-granular region comprising a non-magnetic substance.

17. (Original) The longitudinal granular oxide recording medium of claim 16, wherein there is substantially no diffusion of the non-magnetic substance from the magnetic crystal grains to the inter-granular region.

18. (Original) The longitudinal granular oxide recording medium of claim 12, further comprising a substrate having a textured surface and the magnetic oxide-containing granular magnetic layer has an OR-Mrt of greater than 1.0.

19. (Original) The longitudinal granular oxide recording medium of claim 12, wherein a full-width at half-maximum of a rocking curve of the magnetic oxide-containing granular magnetic layer in a [11-20] direction is less than 10° .

20. (Original) The longitudinal granular oxide recording medium of claim 12, wherein a full-width at half-maximum of a rocking curve of the magnetic oxide-containing granular magnetic layer in a [11-20] direction is less than 7° and the magnetic oxide-containing granular magnetic layer has an OR-Mrt of greater than 1.4.

21-22. (Canceled)

23. (New) A granular oxide recording medium, comprising:

(a) at least one non-magnetic layer with body-centered cubic atomic structure with a $\langle 200 \rangle$ preferred growth orientation,

(b) a first interlayer, IL₁, comprising a Co-containing alloy,

(c) a second interlayer, IL₂, comprising Ru or a Ru-containing alloy with hexagonal close packed atomic structure and with a $\langle 11-20 \rangle$ preferred growth orientation, and

(d) at least one magnetic oxide-containing granular magnetic layer with hexagonal close packed atomic structure and with a $\langle 11-20 \rangle$ preferred growth orientation.

24. (New) The granular oxide recording medium of claim 23, wherein the first interlayer comprises at least 50 at. % of Co and the second interlayer comprises at least 50 at. % of Ru.

25. (New) The granular oxide recording medium of claim 23, wherein a full-width at half-maximum of a rocking curve of the magnetic oxide-containing granular magnetic layer in a $[11-20]$ direction is less than 10° .

26. (New) The longitudinal granular oxide recording medium of claim 12, wherein the interlayer further comprises a third layer comprising Ru or Ru alloy in between the first and second interlayers.

27. (New) The granular oxide recording medium of claim 23, wherein the interlayer further comprises a third layer comprising Ru or Ru alloy in between the first and second interlayers.

28. (New) The longitudinal granular oxide recording medium of claim 12, wherein the interlayer further comprises a third layer comprising Ru or Ru alloy in between the first and second interlayers.

29. (New) A granular oxide recording medium, comprising:

- (a) a first interlayer, IL₁, comprising a Co-containing alloy,
- (b) a second interlayer, IL₂, comprising Co, a Co-containing alloy, Ru or Ru-containing alloy with hexagonal close packed atomic structure and with a $\langle 11-20 \rangle$ preferred growth orientation, and
- (c) at least one magnetic oxide-containing granular magnetic layer with hexagonal close packed atomic structure and with a $\langle 11-20 \rangle$ preferred growth orientation.

30. (New) The granular oxide recording medium of claim 29, wherein the second interlayer IL₂, comprises Ru or Ru-containing alloy.

31. (New) The granular oxide recording medium of claim 29, wherein the first interlayer comprises at least 50 at. % of Co and the second interlayer comprises at least 50 at. % of Ru.

32. (New) The granular oxide recording medium of claim 29, wherein a full-width at half-maximum of a rocking curve of the magnetic oxide-containing granular magnetic layer in a [11-20] direction is less than 10° .

33. (New) The granular oxide recording medium of claim 29, wherein the interlayer further comprises a third layer comprising Ru or Ru alloy in between the first and second interlayers.